

woodland (30 per cent tree cover above 10 feet) with a well-developed shrub layer and wet areas of tall grass less than a half mile from the site of collection of the whydahs. No *P. melba* were seen. The correspondence of the geographic ranges of *V. paradisaea* with *P. melba* and of *V. obtusa* with *P. afra* and the absence of the parasitic whydahs beyond the limits of the range of each host is in agreement with the single-host theory.

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## Notes on *Apalis cinerea* and *Apalis chariessa*

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*Apalis cinerea* (Sharpe)

Recent authors have considered that the nominate race of *Apalis cinerea* extends without geographic variation from the Cameroon highlands to Kenya. This is not so, although the type of variation shown is such that the division of *cinerea* into several races would be more confusing than enlightening.

*A. cinerea* has been considered a variable species, particularly on the colour of the crown. Much of this variation is more apparent than real, due to the belief that the sexes are alike. Actually, when the skins from any one locality are segregated by sex, the females are found to have darker, browner crowns than the males. It is only when series from different localities are compared sex for sex that a pattern of geographic variation emerges.

Starting in Kenya, birds from the highlands, from Mau to Mt. Kenya and Nairobi, are dark above with crown heavily washed with brown. To the north and west of the central highlands, from Nandi to Mt. Elgon and east to Marsabit, Mathews Range and Laikipia, the crowns are distinctly paler, those of some of the males merging into the grey mantle without the usual sharp line of demarcation. These pale-crowned populations extend into Uganda, as far as Toro and Ankole. However, in the west of the range, in the Cameroon highlands, the populations are dark again, and not to be distinguished in any way from the Kenya highland birds.

For all of these populations names are available. The pale-crowned birds would, of course, be nominate *cinerea*, since Mt. Elgon, the type locality, falls within this range. The Kenya highland dark-crowned birds have available *granviki* Grote, 1927, which was proposed as a new name for *minor* Granvik, 1923, type locality Kiambu, near Nairobi. The Cameroon dark-crowned birds could be called *funebri* Bannerman, 1937, type locality Oku. However, as noted above, I feel that the recognition of three

racés, two of which can not be distinguished, is a poor solution, and I prefer to keep all three in a single variable race *cinerea*.

*Apalis chariessa* (Reichenow)

In 1879, Reichenow described *Apalis chariessa* on the basis of two males from Mitole, lower Tana River. The species was not again taken in Kenya until 1961 when Burt L. Monroe Jr. collected an adult male 23 miles north of Garsen, also on the lower Tana and practically topotypical. Through the kindness of George Lowery, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, I have been able to examine this specimen and to compare it with a male from Chiperohe Mt., borrowed through the good offices of Mrs. B. P. Hall of the British Museum.

In 1934 Vincent described *Apalis macphersoni* from Cholo Mountain, Malawi. The following year he realized that *macphersoni* was the same species as *chariessa*, but considered it a valid subspecies because of its greater size. For many years *macphersoni* was recognised, until Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) and White (1962) both placed it in the synonymy of *chariessa*. With Monroe's fresh topotype available, it is clear that *macphersoni* is strikingly larger than *chariessa* and must be recognized. Comparative measurements of males from specimens and the literature, are:

	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus
<i>chariessa</i>				
L. S. U.—Lower Tana R.	48	67	12.5	16
Reich., Vög. Afr. 3: 609	47 (45)	55, 65	(10, 11)	16, 17
<i>macphersoni</i>				
B. M.—Chiperohe Mt.	53	82	14	19
Vincent, type of <i>macphersoni</i>	54	94	13	19

The wing length of the type of *chariessa* is given as 47 mm. in the original description and 45 in *Vögel Afrikas*; in either case much smaller than *macphersoni*.

As is evident from the above measurements, *macphersoni* is larger in all dimensions, the most striking differences on direct comparison being those of tail and tarsus. Reichenow's bill measurements were probably taken from the exposed culmen rather than culmen from base and are not strictly comparable. The only colour difference lies in the chestnut wash below the black throat mark, which forms a clearly defined band across the breast in *chariessa*, but is only an ill-defined wash in *macphersoni*. Moreau (1940) recognized this distinction when he attributed the birds from Ulguru to *macphersoni*.

The ranges of the two races are:

*chariessa*—confined to the lower Tana River.

*macphersoni*—forests on the Uluguru Mts., Tanganyika, the mountains of southern Malawi, and Chiperohe Mt., Moçambique.

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